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## Kim Jong-il dies, N.Korea rallies around son



North Koreans poured into the streets yesterday to mourn the death of iron leader Kim Jong-il as state media hailed his untested son as the "Great Successor" of the reclusive state whose atomic weapons ambitions are a major threat to the region. Pyongyang urged service personnel and citizens to rally behind Kim's youngest son Jong-Un, who is in his late 20s and was last year made a four-star general and given top ruling party posts despite having had no public profile. It is the nuclear-armed pariah nation's second dynastic succession, and analysts said there would probably be little turbulence -- at least for now -- in the North, whose unpredictable behaviour has long destabilised the region. Kim Jong-il's only sister Kim Kyong-Hui and her husband Jang Song-Thaek, the country's unofficial number-two leader, are expected to act as the younger Kim's mentors and throw their weight behind the new leadership.

## Fashion with a Cause raises funds for physically disable children



Gianni's Restaurant in Palm Beach sported a stylishly decked out runway and some of Aruba's most beautiful bodies and faces on

Sunday evening during a fundraising fashion show for the Foundation Mi Por, ("I CAN") specializing in therapy and assistance for fa-

milies with children ages infant to 18 stricken with Cerebral Palsy.

*Continued on page 4*

## Athletic giant and former director of IDEFRE has passed away

In the early hours of Sunday, Aruba received the news of the passing away of Mr. Jerry Gomes. Jerry had been battling with poor health during the past months. Jerry Gomes was the third director of IDEFRE. After going on pension he continued to offer support and counsel and his vast knowledge to various sport organizations up until most recently. Jerry continued to visit IDEFRE's offices frequently because of his occupation in sports and to maintain contact with the director and his former colleagues.

Jerry Gomes began working at IDEFRE in 1982 after working as a school teacher and headmaster. In 1976 he graduated with the L.O. degree in Physical Education and began to work at Filomena College. His involvement with IDEFRE was on account of school sport organizations.

*Continued on pg 5*



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## Donald and Amanda Holt are Aruba's Distinguished Visitors



The Aruba Tourism Authority presented Donald and Amanda Holt, from New Hampshire, with a 10th year recognition as Distinguished Guests. The Holts, staying at the Tamarin All Inclusive, reported they have been coming here since 2002 when they spent their honeymoon on Aruba, and have always enjoyed the great people they meet, the overall safety, their awesome room at the Tamarin right on the water, the lovely beach and above all the warm weather.

Francis Ridderstap, Lei-

sure Services Manager, Divi and Tamarijn All Inclusive Resorts was on hand to congratulate the couple and toast their love-affair with Aruba over mimosa champagne cocktails. The Aruba Tourism Authority representative Marouska Heyliger thanked the Holts for their loyalty to the island and its people and wished them health and happiness and continued much-enjoyed visits every year.

Pictured here, Aruba's newest Distinguished Visitors, Amanda & Donald Holt!

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## Minister Oduber honors long-time civil employees for their service to the community



A tradition established by the Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, since taking office, is to honor long-term civil workers under his administration during a pleasant holiday fete for the end of the year. This year, the tranquil terrace that caps the entrance to the Tropicana Beach Resort & Casino provided a perfect backdrop to pay tribute to these loyal employees of his three ministries.

Receiving recognition for 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service, as well as those who retired in the past year to become pensioner, were:

1. Judith Koolman with 25 years in the Directie Luchtvaart (Civil Aviation)
2. Theodoor "Theo" de Jongh, 30 years working with the ATA
3. Donald Christiaans, 30 years at the Directie Luchtvaart
4. Daniel Jacobs, 30 with the DOPV, some of them as part of the Management Team

5. Nelson Kelly, 35 years with Directie Luchtvaart

6. Maria Maduro, 35 years with Enseñansa pa Empleo, providing vocation education for employees in various fields to improve performance and encourage advancement.

7. Jesus "Maikin" Pourier, 40 years with the Meteorological Service

8. Francisco Arends, of the Directie Luchtvaart, who retired this year.

9. Claudio Quant also became a pensioner from the Directie Luchtvaart

10. Janice Hoek, pensioner from the Directie Scheepvaart (Shipping Directorate)

11. Teofilo Brete of Enseñansa pa Empleo, pensioner

12. Reynaldo Rasmijn, pensioner from the Meteorological Service.

In total, 17 employees received recognition and expressions of gratitude for their loyal service from the Minister, in great appreciation for jobs well done, however, not all could be present for this pleasant event.

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**TUESDAY**

## Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar receives her Aruba bird calendar



ORANJESTAD -- Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, responsible for culture and the Arikok National Park among others received her Aruba bird calendar 2012 from Greg Peterson, chairman of Aruba Birdlife Conservation on December 16th.

The theme of the calendar is 2012, the Year of the Shoco, the year of wisdom. 2012 should be Aruba's year of na-

ture conservation. Aruba Birdlife Conservation proposes that a National Conservation Master Plan be developed and implemented in an effort to save very important nature areas around the island. Achieving such would guarantee a certain level of quality of Product Aruba and in turn guarantee a certain level of quality of life to all.

*Continued on page 6*

## New Dutch Minister of Internal & Kingdom Affairs eager to visit the islands

ORANJESTAD -- Last Friday Mrs. Drs. Liesbeth Spies was sworn in by Her majesty Queen Beatrix as the new Minister of Interior and Dutch Kingdom Affairs. Spies took over from Piet Hein Donner who vacated the position to become vice president of the Raad Van Staten by the Council of Ministers.

Following Spies' appointment a press conference was held in which she expressed that she was honored by the nomination, but at the same time considers the position one of grave responsibility. She confessed that her decision was taken after much consideration and counsel with the vice Prime Minister and colleagues of the Maxie Verhage party.

In the final analysis, says Spies, .... "The decision was my own firm decision."

Mrs., Drs. Jantje Wilhelmina Elisabeth Spies is a politician with many years of experience. From May 2002 to June 2010 she was member of the CDA fraction in the Tweede Kamer (Second Chamber of Parliament).

During the past three years Spies was vice president of her

fraction. As member of the Second Chamber of Parliament she was in charge of the management of the environment and sustainability, political reform, work and assistance to the Royal Palace. Before assuming her position in the Second Chamber, she was head of the department of coordination of the environment and spatial ordinance, and manager of the management plan for the environment and water of the province of South Holland.

In view of her aspirations for another position, she left the Chamber to head the list of the CDA Party for elections in the province of South Holland. In April of this year she became deputy in charge of economic affairs, spatial issues and housing. For a few months Spies was also President ad interim for CDA. The new mi-



nister was born on April 6 in 1966 in Alphen aan den Rijn in the Netherlands where she lives up to the present. She studied Dutch law and Economics in Leiden. She is married and has two daughters. Spies' hobbies are walking, riding bycicle, reading and cooking. Liesbeth Spies has remarked that she is very eager to meet the people and islands of the Caribbean.

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## Aruba's Minimum Wage increases as of January 2012

ORANJESTAD -- It is official, as of the 1st of January 2012 Aruba's minimum wage will increase to Afsl.1.604,60 per month. According to the government, everything is in place for the official introduction and implementation of the new minimum wage law come January 2012.

Based on article 13 of the Minimum wage Ordinance, the Minister of Labor can, after consultation with the Social Economic Counsel (SER), make adjustments to the minimum wage relative to the increase in the price index over the period August 2010 to August 2011.

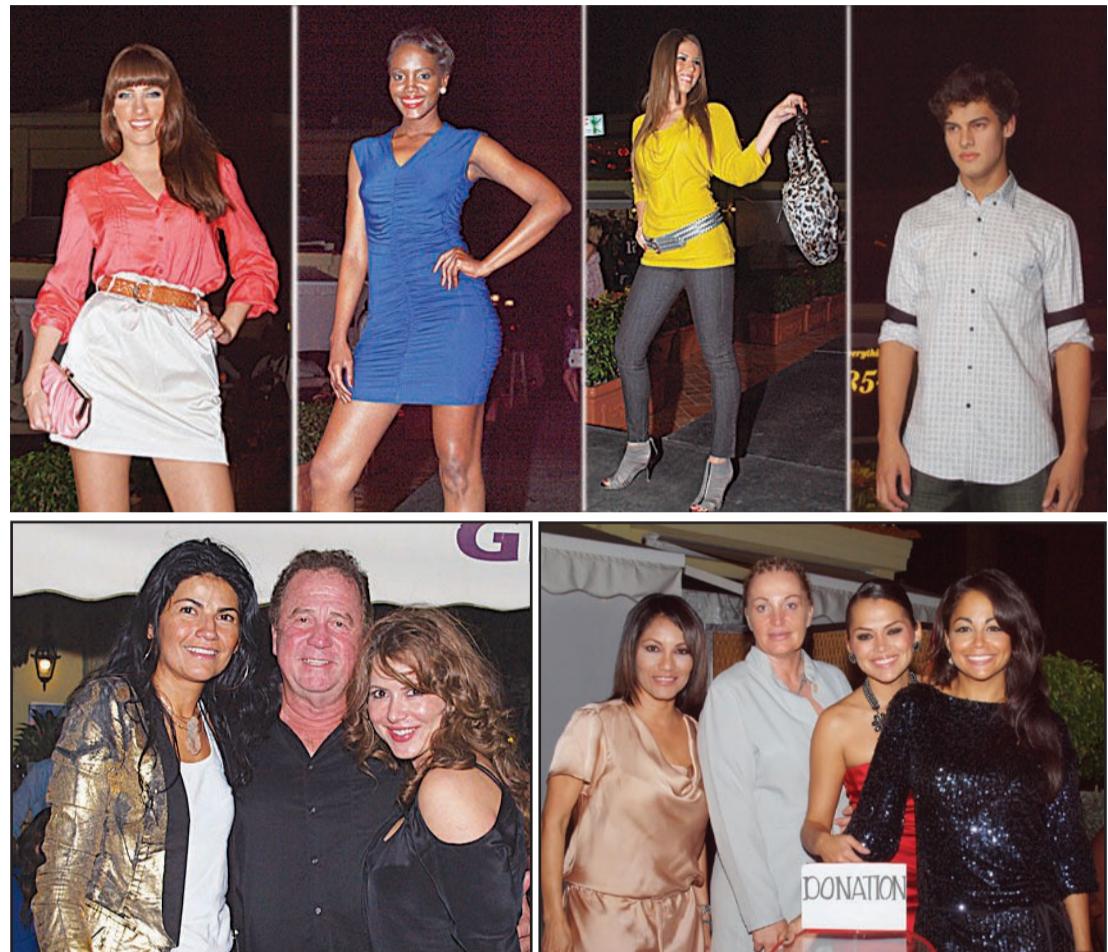
After receiving and studying the documents relative to the price index the SER responded to the governments request for their counsel on November 7th. They proposed

an increase of 4%. Following, the council of Ministers decided, based on various other advice and much deliberation, to increase the minimum wage.

In the process they consulted and negotiated with various instances that may have an influence on or may be affected by an eventual wage increase. For example, they consulted with AZV (General Sickness Insurance), the Pension Fund and negotiations in the National Social Dialogue, and the new to be introduced General Obligatory Pension program for Private citizens awaiting Parliamentary approval. Thus, as of January 1st of 2012 the minimum wage on Aruba will be increased by 4% bringing the official minimum wage to Afsl.1604, 60 per month.

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## Fashion with a Cause raises funds for physically disabled children



*Stylish contributors to the cause*

*Eve, Esmeralda, Josie and Lara of Mi Por*

'Fashion with a Cause,' featured the newest collection from Kenneth Cole and several former Miss Aruba winners, who have represented the island over the past few years in the Miss Universe Pageant. The garments were elegantly casual, with a definite tendency to mini-skirted dresses, which would also do double duty as long tunics. It appears the "in thing" for men is understated styles, with rolled up sleeves a must.

Gianni's donated not only their elegant premises for the event, but sparkling white wine and gourmet snacks for the premium ticket holders who enjoyed a sociable evening while supporting a worthwhile endeavor. Mi Por, founded four years ago, consists of a staff of dedicated volunteers who provide the specialized therapy needed from birth for infants born with CB and other physical disabilities, as well as education and wheelchairs to suit their particular needs. Presently, their limited resources allow only one session per week per "client," but this fashion show is the start of a drive to raise the funds for a center that can provide these services on a full time basis.

Eva, Esmeralda, Josie and Lara can be credited with putting on this glittering and



charming evening, any of them attractive enough to have been one of the models on the runway, but possessing that true inner beauty that comes from devoting oneself to a worthy cause.

Foundation Mi Por maintains a Facebook page; those wishing to donate or volunteer can contact them at 593-3201.

*by Rosalie Klein*



*The models donating their time*

# Athletic giant and former director of IDEFRE has passed away

After the deceased former director Roy Van Putten went on pension in 1985, Jerry Gomes was appointed the new director of IDEFRE in 1986.

At IDEFRE Jerry, along with Roy Van Putten and Rudy Leysner, stimulated and promoted long distance running and cycling. Later they, along with Jessy Beukenboom - the current director of IDEFRE- introduced the Triathlon sport in Aruba back in 1984.

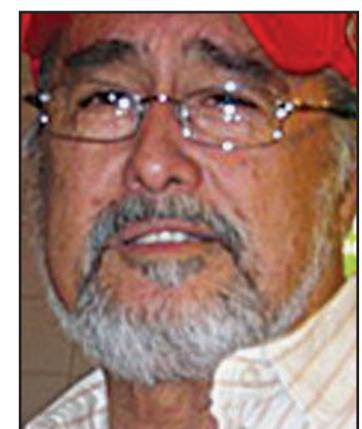
As director, Jerry was always ready to offer his employees opportunities for

advancement, providing this was justifiable. He also expected productivity and results and a high level of performance and service. Jerry, like his predecessor, was a mentor for his employees, and a counselor to anyone in the field of athletics. Unfortunately his health did not allow him to continue in the field of athletics. Those who know Jerry know how very much he contributed to the world of athletics in Aruba.

Here's a resume of his impressive track record and

functions occupied over the years:

- He graduated from a Teachers College in Nijmegen, the Netherlands in 1976. That same year he began teaching for SKOA.
- He taught school at Michael School and later at Filomena College as headmaster.
- President of Centro di Barrio Brazil and member of the Church Counsel of Brazil.
- Practiced volleyball, softball and table tennis
- In athletics he won medals in the sprint category (80m & 100m).
- Trainer for the "Striders" in athletics together with Winston "Stanky" Ashby.
- Table Tennis Champion of Aruba in the Youth category in 1961 and represented Aruba in the Central American and Caribbean Championship in Colombia together with Mario Croes Jr., Cholan Jacobs, Herbert Maxwell and Emiliano Jansen.
- In 1981 the Aruba Jaycees nominated him as



"Most Outstanding Person" in the community.

- Director of IDEFRE 1986-2001
- Member of the Board of Fundacion Lotto pa Deporte 1989-1996
- Member of the Steering Committee of Aruba in the Kingdom Games for youth from 1995 to the present.
- Member of the Stichting Koninkrijkspele Aruba (SKA) 1995 to the present
- Co-founder of Aruba Triathlon Association
- Co-founder of Aruba Road Runners Club
- Member of the Board and president of: Aruba Table Tennis Association, Arubaanse Atletiekbond, Brazil Table Tennis Club (9 team), Aruba Road Runners Club, Aruba Triathlon Association and Schoolsport Commissie
- For a short span Jerry was member of the Board of the Aruba Olympic Committee
- He was member of the board of the following organizations: Aruba Sport Unie, Stichting Koninkrijkspele Aruba, Aruba Boxing Commission, Oranje Vereniging Aruba, Stuurgroep Koninkrijkspele, and Atletiek Vereniging Striders y Antiliaanse Atletiek Unie.
- Secretary of the Sport subsidy Committee from 1999 to 2011
- Member of the National Sports Counsel (Conselho Nacional di Deporte)

Jerry was always a diligent supporter and hard worker for the advancement of sports on Aruba. He leaves a great void in Aruban athletics. Employees of IDEFRE and former colleagues express their heartfelt condolences for the children and family of Jerry Gomes.

The Morning News also mourns the loss of such a stalwart in the Aruban community and one who made such a significant contribution to the lives of young people through the world of sports for so many years. May God grant strength and comfort to his family and many friends.

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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar receives her Aruba bird calendar

Continued from page 3

In February of this year, the bird foundation started a campaign to get the Shoco, Aruba's burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia arubensis*) nominated as the National Bird of Aruba. The numbers of the Shoco have been dwindling and it is estimated that only some 200 pairs of this Aruban endemic subspecies are left.

Protecting this unique bird of Aruba may prevent its extinction. We hope that the Government of Aruba will soon declare our Shoco the National Bird of Aruba. The nomination of our Shoco, the symbol of wisdom, as the National Bird of Aruba, could be seen as the kick-off for the development and implementation of an ambitious National Conservation Master

Plan, says Peterson. It is no coincidence that we made sure that Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar received our bird calendar. She is a fan of nature conservation and a strong supporter of nominating the Shoco as Aruba's national bird. On March 18th 2011, Aruba's national day, she introduced Aruba's first national bird count. Nature conservation lives in this minister's heart, says Peterson.

The bird calendars can be found at Hunny Puny (roundabout Tanki Flip), Huchada (at the Certified Mega Mall as well as in Santa Cruz) and at K&C Boutique (close to Springfield in San Nicolas). All funds go to the Aruba Birdlife Conservation foundation.

## Deadly Cairo clashes stretch into fourth day

CAIRO (AFP) - Egyptian security forces clashed for a fourth straight day yesterday with protesters demanding an end to military rule as the death toll rose to 12, despite strong international criticism of the violence.

Two people were killed in dawn fighting in Cairo's administrative heart as security forces swooped to remove the protesters, health ministry sources said.

The clashes quickly subsided before several hundred people turned out in Tahrir Square -- the epicentre of protests that toppled Hosni Mubarak -- for the funeral of a protester killed in the violence.

But the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces that took power in February denied it had given orders to use force against protesters and said a plot had been uncovered to burn down parliament.

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## Philippine storm toll passes 900 as cities prepare burials



CAGAYAN DE ORO: Police forensics gather DNA and fingerprints sample of unidentified bodies who were among the hundreds of victims of a massive flashflood at a landfill area in Cagayan de Oro to, southern Philippines on December 19, 2011, two days day after Typhoon Washi wrought havoc in the city.

(AFP PHOTO)

ILIGAN (AFP) - The death toll from the cyclone disaster that swept the southern Philippines has jumped above 900, a senior government official said yesterday, as cities prepared mass burials for the victims.

Authorities in the port cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, on the island of Mindanao, where sleeping families were swept to sea from coastal slums, said unclaimed corpses piling up in mortuaries were posing health risks and had to be interred.

The head of the government disaster monitoring council said 927 people were now known to have been killed by tropical storm Washi, which brought heavy rains, flash floods and overflowing rivers to Mindanao.

The death toll is expected to rise even further as more floating bodies are recovered after sunrise today, said Benito Ramos, head of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Ramos's latest toll was a sharp increase from the council's previous figures of 662 dead and 82 missing issued

just hours earlier. The Philippine Red Cross, which is doing its own tally, reported 713 dead and 563 missing.

"They (the dead bodies) were washed out to sea. They were underwater for the first three days but now, in their state of decomposition, they are bloated and floating to the surface," Ramos told AFP. "The death toll will rise again in the morning when more bodies surface."

The huge death toll came as government relief workers recovered more bodies from Mindanao, particularly Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, which have borne most of the deaths from Washi. Whole villages perched on sandbars or on the shores of rivers were washed away when

Washi struck Mindanao and nearby areas over the weekend, bringing a month's worth of rain in a 24-hour period.

The disaster area, located about 800 kilometres (500 miles) from the capital Manila, is normally bypassed by typhoons that ravage other parts of the far-flung Philippine archipelago every year. As a result, many residents were caught by surprise when floods suddenly hit their homes in the dead of night, before dawn on Saturday.

More than 88,000 people have been displaced by the storm with over half of them huddled in crowded, makeshift government evacuation centres, the disaster management council said.

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## US calls on North Korea to meet nuclear obligations

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House said yesterday it hoped the new North Korean leadership would live up to its obligations to end the reclusive state's nuclear program, following the death of Kim Jong-Il.

"We hope that the new North Korean leadership will take the steps necessary to support peace, prosperity and a better future for the North Korean people including ... acting on its commitments to denu-

clearization," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

Carney said in the aftermath of Kim's death from a heart attack on Saturday that Washington did not have any new grounds for concern about Pyongyang's stocks of nuclear weapons, over and above its previous warnings about the atomic arsenal.

He also said it was too early to make judgments about what the death of Kim would mean for the future of North Korea, or its relationship with the outside world, including six party nuclear talks.

"It is premature to make assessments of the new leader. We will judge the North Korean government as we always have by its actions and by its actions ... in particular ... regarding denuclearization.

"It does make sense to give this process a little bit of time before we make judgments about the new leadership."

On state television yesterday a tearful announcer delivered the news of Kim's demise at 69 from a heart attack, and the station aired footage of hysterical North Koreans, young and old alike, pounding the ground in displays of abject grief.

A KCNA report in the early hours of today described grief-stricken North Koreans holding late-night vigils at various statues and monuments to Kim.

China and Russia, both influential players in Pyongyang, sent their condolences and observers said Beijing would beef up its all-important patronage to prevent collapse in the communist North.

Kim's funeral will be held on December 28 in Pyongyang but no foreign delegations will be invited, KCNA said. National mourning was declared until December 29.

## Obama 'concerned' about rights in Venezuela

"imperialism."

Obama said Washington "does not pretend to dictate" foreign policy to sovereign nations, but said "the Venezuelan government's ties to Iran and Cuba have not served the interests of Venezuela or the Venezuelan people."

On Iran, Obama said, "it is up to the Venezuelan people to determine what they gain from a relationship with a country that violates universal human rights and is isolated from much of the world."

He maintained that "we take Iranian activities, including in Venezuela, very seriously and we will continue to monitor them closely."

Obama said Cuba's future "must be freely determined by the Cuban people. Sadly, that has not been the case for decades, and it is not the case today."

"The people of Cuba deserve the same rights, freedoms and opportunities as anyone else," Obama added.

"The United States is going to continue supporting the basic rights of the Cuban people. At the same time, we'll continue to work with others across the region to defend the shared values that are enshrined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter and that belong to all people."

**ABA**  
Aruban Bankers Association

CLOSING HOURS

**CHRISTMAS WEEKEND:**

Friday, December 23rd, 2011 at 12:00 noon.

Saturday, December 24th, 2011 closed.

Sunday, December 25th, 2011 closed.

Monday, December 26th, 2011 closed.

**NEW YEAR WEEKEND:**

Friday, December 30th, 2011 at 12:00 noon.

Saturday, December 31st, 2011 closed.

Sunday, January 1st, 2012 closed.

Monday, January 2nd, 2012 closed.

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4. Like us on Facebook, and receive a second raffle ticket
5. Raffle tickets are for final drawing on Ash Wednesday 2012;
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**Holiday Spirit Contest: [Subscribe to submit](#)**

1. Send us your favorite holiday pix via e-mail
2. "Picks of the day and week" will appear in THE MORNING NEWS
3. Contest begins today, Tuesday, December 20 and deadline for submissions is Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 6:00 PM.  
No submissions will be accepted after.
4. Judging is final; winners will be announced on Friday, January 6, 2012
5. Each submission earns a raffle ticket towards the Ash Wednesday drawing

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**3rd Prize:** Complete Play package at Cool Casino

Prize winners will receive additional raffle tickets towards final drawing, and a special surprise for the grand prize winning photo.

No purchase necessary to participate; subscription to THE MORNING NEWS and submission of photos are free; photos will only be used for Christmas promotion and owners retain all rights.

We are doing it again for Carnival! New photos-new prizes!

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## Health & Living

# Selective abortion of girls increases in Armenia: UN



YEREVAN (AFP) - The percentage of male children born in Armenia has risen significantly due to an increase in female foeticide, the United Nations Population Fund said on Monday.

More than 7,000 Armenian women have had selective abortions over the past five years, according to a new study carried out by the UN Population Fund with the Armenian health ministry and the Institute of Perinatology.

The gender ratio of births is 110-120 boys to 100 girls, higher than the accepted norm of 102-106 boys to 100 girls, the study said.

The trend could cause demographic problems for the small ex-Soviet state, UN Population Fund official Garik Hayrapetyan told a news conference in Yerevan.

"In ten to 20 years, we will face a deficit of women -- that means, of potential mothers," Hayrapetyan said.

Selective abortion is a problem in countries like China and India.

But it has also reached "worrying proportions" in Caucasus states Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly said in a resolution on gender selection in October.

The resolution said that pressure on women to have selective abortions should be seen as "a form of psychological violence".



Please remember to check your breasts every month

# Conjoined twin dies in Chile after marathon surgery

SANTIAGO (AFP) - A 10-month-old Chilean girl has died after a 20-hour-long surgery last week to separate her from her conjoined twin, who is expected to live, doctors said Monday.

Maria Jose died "despite all medical efforts, as a result of deficiencies in several of her organs, mainly associated with heart problems," Dr Osvaldo Artaza, the director of the Hospital Luis Calvo Mackenna, told reporters.

The surviving twin, Maria Paz, meanwhile woke up earlier Monday, according to Juan Carlos Acuna, head of the intensive care unit, who said it was an "excellent sign" that she would recover from the surgery.

"Hopefully, we will have a favorable outcome. Every day we make progress," Acuna said.

Maria Jose, who was smaller than her twin, had been in critical condition following an arrhythmia episode Thursday that required resus-

citation efforts.

The operation to separate the twins -- who were conjoined at the chest and pelvis -- involved separating the thorax, liver, intestines and pelvis and then reconstruction of their organs and surrounding tissue.

Some 100 professionals worked in rotating shifts of 24 to complete the marathon surgery, which began on Tuesday. An earlier procedure two months earlier separated a leg shared by the twins.

The girls are the daughters of a truck driver and a housewife from the southern town of Loncoche.

Health Minister Jaime Manalich, who visited the twins last week, said the Chilean government is paying for the procedure, which hospital officials said would cost more than \$200,000.

In 1993 two conjoined twin boys were separated successfully in the same hospital in an operation that lasted more than 10 hours.

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Second seating starts at 9:00 pm with the special 4-course menu.

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## US zoo receives \$4.5 mn panda donation

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The National Zoo in Washington announced Monday it had received a \$4.5 million donation from a rich US benefactor which will fund a five-year study into preservation of the giant panda.

The money from David Rubenstein, co-founder of the Carlyle Group, a global investment house, will fund conservation and reproduction programs in China, scholarships and training, and refurbishment of panda enclosures in Washington.

The Smithsonian has a partnership with the China Wildlife Conservation Association.

The Washington zoo, run by the Smithsonian Institution, is home to two giant pandas, Tian Tian, a male, and Mei Xiang, a female, who had a

cub -- Tai Shan -- in 2005 through artificial insemination.

The National Zoo is to receive frozen semen from San Diego's now deceased panda, Shi Shi, later this year, to be used if its own pandas do not again mate successfully.

Giant pandas kept in captivity are known for their low sex drive, further exacerbating an already threatened species.

There are only an estimated 1,600 pandas in their natural habitat, mostly in China, and around 300 more in captivity, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

"His generosity will enable us and our Chinese partners to continue our conservation work to give this critically endangered species the chance to survive in its native habitat," the zoo said in a statement.

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## Sci-Tech

# Big quakes no more likely than in past: study

Massive earthquakes are no more likely today than they were a century ago, despite an apparent rise of the devastating temblors in recent years, US researchers said on Monday.

The deadly 9.0 earthquake this year in Japan, an 8.8 quake in Chile last year and the 2004 Sumatra-Andaman earthquake that registered 9.0 on the moment magnitude scale have raised alarm in some science and media circles that such events may be linked.

But researchers at the University of California went back over the world's earthquake records dating back to 1900 and found over time there was no statistically significant rise in the number of big quakes 7.0 and higher.

"One has to be careful, because humans have a tendency to see patterns in random sequences," lead author Peter Shearer of the UC Berkeley Department of Statistics told

AFP. "So what we wanted to do here was apply statistical tests to see whether you could say it wasn't just a random sequence of events," said Shearer, whose study appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Those tests showed that you can't say that it is not random; that is, there is not a statistically significant degree of the clustering of events," he said.

Even though there is "a disproportionate number of very large 8.5 earthquakes between 1950 and 1965," there were uncommonly fewer of these during a much longer period afterward from 1965 to 2004.

And although there has been a more frequent rate of 8.0 and larger quakes since 2004, with the last five years in particular at a record high, "there have been rates nearly as high in the past," said the study.

The researchers also looked

for any clues from the Earth's crust that could explain why or how big quakes might be linked.

"And the conclusion was no, there isn't a likely physical cause that would link for example a large earthquake in South America to one in Japan," Shearer told AFP.

Taken together, the two approaches "suggest that the global risk of large earthquakes is no higher today than it has been in the past," concluded the study.

The findings are in line with a study in Nature Geoscience earlier this year that found the regional hazard of larger earthquakes is increased after a main shock, but the global hazard is not.

That study countered an earlier 2009 paper in Nature that suggested seismic waves might have an effect on distant fault lines, potentially increasing the risk of earthquakes far away.

## Saudi prince buys \$300 million stake in Twitter

(AFP) - Saudi billionaire Prince Walid bin Talal and his Kingdom Holding Company announced a combined investment of \$300 million in the social networking site Twitter, in a statement Monday.

"Our investment in Twitter reaffirms our ability in identifying suitable opportunities to invest in promising, high-growth businesses with a global impact," Prince Walid said in the statement released on Kingdom Holding's website.

The statement said that the investment was finalised after "several months of negotiations" and represented a "strategic stake" in the social networking site.

Prince Walid, a media mogul and one of the world's richest men, in September announced plans to launch Alarab, a pan-Arab news channel, by 2012, saying the television network will promote freedom of speech.

Social networking sites like

Twitter and Facebook played a crucial role in spreading information and organising protests in the revolutions that have rocked the Arab world since January.

In Syria today, where the international press has been banned from reporting on the uprising against the regime's bloody crackdown on demonstrators, activists use Twitter, Facebook and other websites to get news on their struggle to the outside world.

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Dessert  
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## Finance

# Eurozone agrees 150-bn-euro IMF bailout boost

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The 17-nation eurozone agreed yesterday to lend 150 billion euros (\$195 billion) to the International Monetary Fund for use in stabilising the euro currency area, a eurozone governmental source said.

"There is an agreement on a sum of 150 billion euros for the eurozone countries," the source told AFP.

The source said the aim was still to reach the 200 billion euros target set by EU leaders at a December 9 summit, despite a British refusal to stump

up its roughly 30-billion-euro share based on IMF quotas.

The other European Union countries "are to take up their positions," the source said, but they had already "implicitly" agreed to reach the target designed to leverage a funding boost from other G20 states.

The source said the EU -- all 27 of which took part in a three-and-a-half-hour conference call yesterday -- "will reach the 200 billion (euros and are) ... progressing towards the 200 billion, that is clear."

## Pakistanis close airport road over gas shortages



AFP photo shows Pakistani protesters attempting to stop a car during a protest against the gas shortage in Rawalpindi yesterday.

Hundreds of furious Pakistanis blocked off the capital's airport highway yesterday, demonstrating against debilitating gas shortages and pelting police with stones, witnesses said.

A second angry crowd torched tyres in Islamabad and twin city Rawalpindi, throwing stones at police and private ve-

hicles over gas rationing that has left thousands of homes without heat for hours at a time, an AFP reporter said.

Yawning energy shortfalls frequently trigger violent protests across Pakistan, where opposition parties are setting in motion campaigns designed to force elections earlier than scheduled in February 2013.

A police official said protesters chanted slogans against the government and demanded an end to the gas shortages.

During the conference call, Britain's finance minister George Osborne set down clear conditions for any eventual aid, a London government official said, adding that the British Treasury "will not contribute to anything that is only available to eurozone countries."

The British government source added: "Nor will we participate in an increase in IMF resources that only comes from EU countries without the participation of other G20 countries" outside the EU.

### *Belgian unions call general strike over pension reform*

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Belgian trade unions called for a general strike in the public sector on Thursday to protest the new government's pension reform plans, aimed at making it tougher to take early retirement.

After a 24-hour strike call from late Wednesday through Thursday by the SNCB rail-workers' union, other public sector unions yesterday joined the protest, urging a stop-work in public transport, postal services and the administration.

The one-day strike will throw up the first challenge faced by Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo's centre-left government, which took office December 6 pledging to cut spending to trim the country's debt and deficit -- respectively at 96.2 percent and 4.1 percent of GDP in 2010.

The Socialist party leader has pledged to maintain pension payments but due to the aging population is proposing to delay early retirement, except in some cases.

<b>Daily Exchange Rates</b>				
Current as of: 12/19/2011	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	<b>1.77</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>1.80</b>
Dutch Antilles	ANG	<b>0.98</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.002</b>
Canada	CAD	<b>1.700</b>	<b>1.720</b>	<b>1.740</b>
Britain	GBP	<b>2.700</b>	<b>2.750</b>	<b>2.810</b>
Switzerland	CHF	<b>190.35</b>	<b>191.07</b>	<b>191.87</b>
Netherlands	EUR	<b>230.13</b>	<b>232.23</b>	<b>234.57</b>
Sweden	SEK	<b>24.84</b>	<b>25.56</b>	<b>26.36</b>
Denmark	DKK	<b>30.29</b>	<b>31.01</b>	<b>31.81</b>
Norway	NOK	<b>29.01</b>	<b>29.73</b>	<b>30.53</b>
Japan (per 10,000)	JPY	<b>226.68</b>	<b>228.75</b>	<b>231.05</b>

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



### Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

### Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m

Palm Beach Center - Palm Beach Aruba - Tel: 5860944

## ECB sees heightened risk of bank failure in euro area

FRANKFURT (AFP) - The risk of failure of two or more major eurozone banks has increased sharply in the past six months and is now higher than it has ever been since 2007, the European Central Bank warned yesterday.

The chances of a simultaneous default of two or more banks in the next two years, which were practically zero at the start of 2007, now stand at around one in four, the ECB calculated in a new Financial Stability Review.

"The increase over the past six months of the probability that one or several eurozone banks will default has been more rapid and more marked than in the past, with the indicator of systemic risk reaching levels unprecedented" since the indicator started to be calculated in 2007, the central bank wrote.

The ECB calculates the index by taking into account stock prices and the prices of so-called credit default swaps (CDS), used to insure against

the risk of a borrower failing to repay.

Generally speaking, the risks to financial stability in the single currency area "have increased considerably in the second half" of this year, ECB deputy president Vitor Constancio told a news conference.

He saw the biggest risk as a combination of contagion from the debt crisis, the vulnerability of the financial sector and weak economic growth.

Nevertheless, with the ECB making unlimited liquidity available to banks, there was no reason for the banking sector to stop lending to businesses and trigger a credit crunch which would be catastrophic for growth, Constancio said.

At the same time, the risk of a break-up of the eurozone has not been taken into account in the figures because such as a scenario was "unthinkable," he said.



**SWEDEN, Trollhättan:** Workers at the Swedish car manufacturer Saab Automobile leave the factory in Trollhättan, southwestern Sweden, on December 19, 2011. Saab Automobile filed for bankruptcy with a Swedish court yesterday, bringing to an end two years of efforts to rescue the iconic brand which has been the hallmark of Swedish cars for six decades. The final desperate attempts to raise funds in China were obstructed by Saab's former owner General Motors over licences. (AFP PHOTO)



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## Video and Ceramics are the next workshop for January 2012 at THE ATELIERS 89



Foundation Ateliers '89 with two most interesting workshops for January, 2012, one of VIDEO and the other of CERAMICS. The video workshop will be guided by Master Artists, Mrs. Erla S. Haraldsdóttir and husband Mr. Crani Boyd and for the Ceramics workshop Master Artists, Mrs. Ellen Spijkstra. Mrs. Haraldsdóttir is from Iceland and Mr. Crani Boyd is from US and Liberia as Mrs. Ellen Spijkstra is from neighbour Island of Curacao.

Both workshops seem to be very interesting. Video with

its theme "RE-MAKE A SHORT STORY VIDEO", re-make a scene from a classic film or remake your own personal story. Ceramics with make your own oven and bake your own work, titled "NOTHING LAST, NOTHING IS FINISHED, AND NOTHING IS PERFECT", a RAKU workshop and "PRIMITIVE FIRINGS" and many other techniques included.

In a next edition of this, your favorite paper, we will bring more about the ceramic workshop, but for now we

like to introduce you to the Video workshop and what to expect if you intend to participate.

### "RE-MAKE A SHORT STORY VIDEO"

a workshop by Erla S. Haraldsdóttir and Crani Boyd

Learn how to make a short video that tells a story in an easy and fun way.

By participating in the workshop: "RE-MAKE A SHORT STORY VIDEO" you will be provided with the right tools in how to; create, edit and produce a video that tells a story.

We will provide you with the opportunity in learning the basics in using the camera, editing, making a QuickTime movie and presenting the result on the internet or burn a DVD.

The main theme for the workshop is to "re-make" a well-known and a familiar story, by either: re-making a scene from an old film, re-making a classical fable or recreating a distinct memory from the past.

The aim is that the students

in a four week period will develop an idea for a short story video, plan it, film it, edit it and present the final result in the end of the period in an exhibition and to put the video on-line in the "One minute website". Thereby know how to make a video, by having completed each of the steps increasing video art.

We will look at examples of videos and classical movies. Helping to develop the individual students ideas, review the basics in recording with a video camera, editing with Final Cut Pro, producing and post-production.

### Week one:

We show videos and classical movies as a group. Assignment are given to the students: "Create a one minute long video, that is a re-make of a scene from a movie or a story". We go through basics in using a video camera, sound, and lightning. Tutorials.

### Week two:

We look at interesting scenes from classical movies, we provide lessons in differ-

ent ways to make the same scene.

### Week three:

Editing with Final Cut Pro. Tutorials.

### Week four:

Give lessons in making a QuickTime film, DVD, Web distribution. Presentation of the students one minutes long videos in an exhibition and on the website: [www.oneminute.org](http://www.oneminute.org).

These workshops are a month long and they start on Monday, January the 9th, 2012.

They are four nights a week from 6.30 PM to 9.30 PM. Age is 14 and Up

To enroll you can call its director Elvis López at tel: 5885776 or Mob: 565 46 13. Ateliers '89 is situated at the Dominicanessenstr#34 in Oranjestad or write to [elvis@ateliers89.com](mailto:elvis@ateliers89.com). Or visit our web-site at: [www.ateliers89.com](http://www.ateliers89.com).

Enroll now as places are limited.

We look forward meeting you!

## Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,



high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting online at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

## Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "S", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what



**Rosie and Aaron love their burger too**



**Gouda Burger 2**

they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers—the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are

made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way—with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner – daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

## SPORTS

### **Football: I did not racially abuse Chafni: linesman**

PARIS (AFP) - Johann Perruaux, the linesman accused by Auxerre's Moroccan international Kamel Chafni of racially abusing him, denied the allegation on Monday.

Perruaux said in a statement sent to AFP that while he had reacted in a lively fashion when confronted by Chafni during the Ligue 1 match between Auxerre and Brest on Saturday he had not resorted to racial abuse.

Chafni was sent off following an altercation with Perruaux, in the 55th minute of Auxerre's 1-0 loss at Brest.

The midfielder had to be restrained by his team-mates, as well as players from Brest, and

as he left the pitch, following a delay of five minutes, he told television cameras he had been the victim of racist abuse.

However, Perruaux said that the claims were wide of the mark.

"I formally deny all claims that I made racist remarks," said Perruaux.

"Even if I reacted strongly, following the remarks made by M. Chafni and his aggressive attitude towards me, I formally deny all allegations of racist abuse."

"I am at the disposition of the judicial authorities that M. Chafni has indicated he will go to, and have all the evidence

necessary in my possession," added Perruaux, who was referring to the earpieces the officials wear and which records exchanges between individuals.

Perruaux said that he too was looking to take legal action.

"I have asked my advisors to do all that is necessary so that a complaint for defamation can be filed," he said.

"I will make no further comment on this affair but I will obviously give all the explanations concerning the incident to the sports commissions who have been assembled to consider it."

### **Football: Celtic charged by UEFA over offensive banner**

LONDON (AFP) - Celtic are back in trouble with UEFA after European football's governing body charged the Scottish club over their fans' behaviour during a Europa League game against Udinese.

UEFA on Monday confirmed they had opened disciplinary proceedings against Celtic for the second time in two months after supporters of the Glasgow club displayed a banner of an offensive nature and set off fireworks at Stadio Friuli last Thursday.

A section of Celtic's travelling support in Italy held aloft a two-part banner which insulted UEFA, days after the club were fined about £12,700 for "illicit chanting" involving

pro-IRA songs at a Europa League game against Rennes at Celtic Park.

Several flares were also let off and one was thrown on to the pitch-side track as Celtic crashed out of the tournament following the 1-1 draw against Udinese.

Celtic had tried to head off disciplinary action by giving a life ban to one fan, believed to be involved in displaying the banner, who was arrested in Italy over the alleged assault of a club steward.

The club also vowed to sift through photographic evidence to find those fans responsible for the use of the flares, while Hoops manager Neil Lennon and chief execu-

tive Peter Lawwell hit out at the "rogue" element within their support.

Lawwell said: "We will weed them out. It's one or two silly little juvenile boys doing funny kids' pranks and stuff and it is bringing the whole of Scottish football down."

Lennon added: "My only surprise is that they got the spelling on the banner right."

"I am very disappointed, they have let me down and they have let down the board, the players and 99.9 percent of the support."

The case will be heard by the UEFA's control and disciplinary body on January 26.

### **Football: Japan hopes to bring back Club World Cup**

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan hopes to host the Club World Cup in 2015 and 2016 after a two-year break as this year's edition proved to be a success with strong attendance figures, press reports said Monday.

The 2011 tournament concluded in Yokohama on Sunday with European champions Barcelona overwhelming South America's top club Santos 4-0 in the final before a sell-out 68,000 spectators at Nissan Stadium.

The showpiece event will also be staged in Japan next year and then Morocco in 2013 and 2014.

Japan, which co-hosted the 2002 World Cup with South Korea, staged the club championship from 2005, when it

was first organised in its current formula, to 2008. The United Arab Emirates staged it in the next two years.

"More than 300,000 people attended this year's tournament. It attracted 200,000 people to the UAE last year," Japan Football Association President Junji Ogura told media after the final.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter praised the turnout as "wonderful," Ogura added, according to the Daily Sports.

"I want to work hard to help bring the event back to Japan. I want to let people in Japan see how the world's top clubs are," Ogura said.

Ogura has earlier said Japan would pass on bidding for the Club World Cup in 2013 and

2014 to give itself a better chance of hosting the Women's World Cup and other major tournaments.

FIFA, football's world governing body, has decided to move the venue of next year's under-20 Women's World Cup to Japan from Uzbekistan due to "logistical and technical" problems.

Japan will be formally confirmed as the new host pending government approval, according to the official FIFA website.

Japan won the Women's World Cup in Germany last July, lifting the country's mood after a massive earthquake and tsunami in March devastated its northeast and sparked a major nuclear crisis.

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**STARRING: Adam Steinfeld**

**WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.**

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**THEATER OPENS: 8:30PM**

**BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM**

**COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40**

**TICKETS: at the theater door**

**GROUP SALES: (297) 561-1090**

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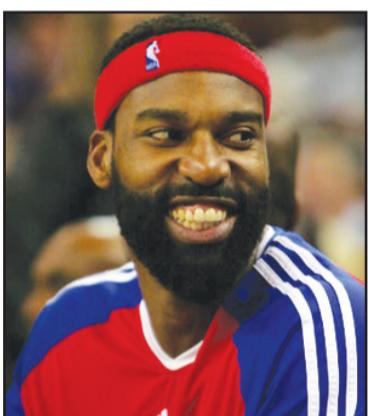
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## NBA: Davis ditches Lakers, Heat for Knicks

NEW YORK (AFP) - NBA free agent guard Baron Davis took phone calls from the Miami Heat and Los Angeles Lakers, but the offer he ac-



cepted on Monday came from the New York Knicks.

Davis, dropped by the Cleveland Cavaliers last week under a salary amnesty program in the new NBA collective bargaining agreement, signed with the Knicks for the veterans minimum salary of \$1.4 million.

Goodbye LeBron James and Dwyane Wade. So long Kobe Bryant, Pau Gasol and all his hometown friends. Hello Carmelo Anthony, Amare Stoudemire and Tyson Chandler.

"Those teams did call and I have a great respect for both organizations, but for me it was just the opportunity to play in New York and to play on this team," Davis said.

"I always kind of rise to the occasion when I'm playing against the Knicks and playing in the Garden. It's just an unbelievable opportunity and I'm ready to accept the challenge."

Davis will still be paid the

\$28 million he is owed in the two remaining years of his contract, but the figure will not count against the Cavaliers' salary cap, making it easier to take the minimum and help New York cap issues.

A bigger priority, Davis said, was the front-court lineup of Anthony and Stoudemire flanking Chandler.

"A big reason why I came here was because of the front line," Davis said. "You just think about two 20-plus scorers on your front line and then a guy like Tyson Chandler, who's a defensive stopper and a great defensive leader."

"For me it'll be great to get out on the floor and just play with guys at that talent level."

After struggling with rebuilding sides Cleveland and the Los Angeles Clippers last season, Davis is anxious to get on the court for the Knicks.

But he will have to wait. A herniated back disc is expected to sideline him for eight to 10 weeks.

"The first order of business is just get him healthy and make sure that when he is able to play, he's ready to go," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Just adds another weapon to already a pretty good group."

Davis has career averages of 16.5 points and 7.3 assists in 12 NBA seasons. Last season he averaged 13.1 points and 6.7 assists a game.

## NBA: Kings terminate Hayes contract after failed physical

Kings 10 days ago.

"This morning, in one of the most heartbreaking moments of my professional or personal life, Chuck Hayes was notified that he failed his physical exam with the Sacramento Kings," Kings general manager Geoff Petrie said.

"Subsequent to that, the contract signed on December 9 has been voided."

Petrie said Hayes asked the team to make no further comment.

Hayes had undergone more testing after last week's findings before the decision to void his deal was made. He did not play in Sacramento's pre-season opener last Saturday at Golden State.

In six NBA seasons with the Rockets, Hayes averaged 3.4 points and 4.7 rebounds a game.



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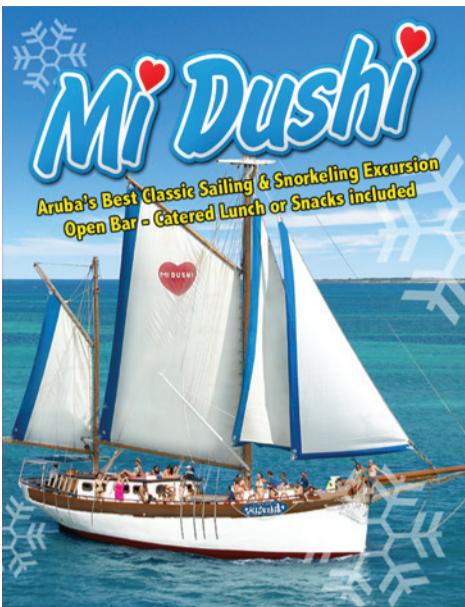
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## NFL: Patriots put a halt to Tebow train



Ray Rice #27 of the Baltimore Ravens is tackled by Shaun Phillips #95 and Na'il Diggs #58 of the San Diego Chargers during their NFL Game on December 18, 2011 at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, California.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Quarterback Tom Brady's Patriots rallied to score 27 unanswered points as New England defeated the Denver Broncos 41-23 to clinch a post-season berth on Sunday.

New England captured their ninth AFC East title in the past 11 years and snapped the Broncos' superb win streak of six straight games.

Brady completed 23 of 34 passes for 320 yards with two touchdown passes to help the Patriots rebound from a 17-6 deficit early on. Brady also ran for a touchdown.

"We knew it was going to a 60-minute game," Brady said. "I thought we played well for 60 minutes for the first time this season."

Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow got off to a fast start as Denver outgained the Patriots 167-4 in the first quarter.

But this time there was no last-minute heroics from Tebow, who fizzled in the second half and at one point in the final quarter he was sacked for a whopping 28-yard loss.

Tebow was a disappoint-

ing 11 of 22 for 194 yards. Under pressure from the Patriots' pass rush, he ran 12 times for 93 yards. The loss dropped the Broncos to 8-6 on the season.

Quarterback Matthew Stafford tossed a six-yard touchdown strike to Calvin Johnson with 39 seconds remaining to cap a 98-yard scoring drive as the Detroit Lions rallied to beat the Oakland Raiders 28-27.

The victory was sealed when Ndamukong Suh, who was returning from a two-game suspension, blocked Sebastian Janikowski's 65-yard field goal attempt on the final play.

"For me it's just a great opportunity to be on the football field," Suh said. "That's just the things that I expect out of myself. I can't do it by myself. I continue to have great players around me."

Oakland appeared headed to victory with just under eight minutes left when Aaron Curry returned a fumble six yards for a touchdown to make it 27-14.

But Stafford seized the moment by leading a pair of late scoring drives to win it and give the Lions a two-game lead in the NFL wild-card race. Detroit now has nine wins and five losses on the season.

In the night game, Philip Rivers threw for a touchdown and Ryan Mathews ran for two more as the San Diego Chargers kept their post-season hopes alive with a 34-14 win over Baltimore.

In another key game Sun-

day, Indianapolis Colts' quarterback Dan Orlovsky says he wasn't about to go through another 0-16 season.

"I think in my career, I've learned not to take them (wins) for granted," Orlovsky said.

The Colts beat Tennessee 27-13 Sunday to earn their first win of the season Sunday after losing the first 13 games with star quarterback Peyton Manning on the injured list.

Orlovsky, a seven-year veteran, was with Detroit in 2008 when the Lions finished 0-16 on the season. He tossed one touchdown pass against Tennessee.

It was the Colts' first win

in 14 years without Peyton Manning, who the team said Sunday would not play at all this season.

"I'm happy for a lot of people on this team, for a lot of people in this organization," Orlovsky said. "It's a lot better than the feeling we've had lately."

In other games, it was New Orleans 42 Minnesota 20, Seattle 38 Chicago 14, Cincinnati 20 St. Louis 13, Carolina 28 Houston 13, Kansas City 19 Green Bay 14, Miami 30 Buffalo 23, Washington 23 N.Y. Giants 10, Arizona 20 Cleveland 17 and Philadelphia 45 New York Jets 20.

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